

CLAIMS

1. An extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* D. Don buds which may be obtained by a first solid/liquid extraction step, followed by a second  
5 solid/liquid separation step, then a third liquid phase retrieval step.

2. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the solid/liquid extraction is performed by maceration, remaceration, digestion, dynamic maceration, fluid bed extraction, microwave-assisted  
10 extraction, ultrasound-assisted extraction, countercurrent extraction, percolation, repercolation, leaching, low-pressure extraction, diacolation, supercritical fluid extraction or solid-liquid extraction with continuous reflow (soxhlet).

3. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the bud/solvent ratio in the solid/liquid extraction step is between 1/99 and 80/20 (by weight).  
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4. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the solid/liquid extraction step is performed at a temperature between 3°C and 100°C, preferably between 20°C and 60°C.  
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5. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the solid/liquid separation step is performed by draining, pressing, spin drying, centrifugation or filtration.  
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6. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the liquid/solid separation step is followed by at least one clarification step.

7. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the liquid/solid separation step is followed by a concentration step.  
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8. An extract as claimed in either claim 6 or 7, characterized in that the clarification and/or concentration steps are followed by a sterilizing 0.22-μm filtration step.  
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9. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is dried after the liquid/solid separation step by lyophilization, atomization or vacuum evaporation.

5           10. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that when the extract is in liquid form, it has a dry matter content between 1 and 100 g/kg.

10           11. An extract as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that when it is in dry form, it has a dry matter content between 10 and 1000 g/kg.

15           12. An extract as claimed in claim 1 used to stimulate the synthesis of essential components of the extracellular matrix through the dermis cells.

            13. An extract claimed in claim 1 used for its cytoprotective activity on the skin.

20           14. An extract as claimed in claim 1 used for its stimulating activity on epidermal cell metabolism.

            15. A cosmetic composition containing an extract of *Cryptomeria japonica* buds as claimed in claim 1.

25           16. A composition as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the extract represents between 0.1% and 10% of the composition by weight, preferably between 0.3% and 3%.

30           17. Use of the composition as claimed in claim 15, in topical application, as an age-defying, moisturizing, normalizing and stimulating agent for the complexion's radiance.